

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant proposes to amend claims 1 through 30. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A screed mold method for making gelatinous elastomer gel cushioning articles, the method comprising the steps of:

~~obtaining a screed mold,~~

~~the screed mold having a rigid body,~~

~~the screed mold being attaching side rails around a perimeter of an open face non-pressurized screed mold,~~

~~the screed mold having a honeycomb shape in said rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure,~~

~~the screed mold including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in said a rigid body to form said forming a honeycomb shape which establishes a defining at least one mold core,~~

~~obtaining side rails,~~

~~attaching side rails to the perimeter of the mold in order to surround the perimeter of the mold with side rails,~~

~~obtaining access to an providing a separate injection head,~~

~~said the injection head having a plurality of distribution channels therein through which thermoplastic material may flow,~~

~~said distribution channels being subdivided into sub-distribution channels,~~

~~said distribution channels terminating in exit ports through which~~

~~thermoplastic material may exit said injection head and enter said screed mold,~~

~~said injection head and~~ including at least one heating element within it for heating thermoplastic material,

positioning ~~said the~~ injection head adjacent ~~said the~~ screed mold ~~in a location so that~~ thermoplastic material may flow from ~~said injection head the~~ distribution channels ~~out of said exit ports and into said at least one of the~~ screed mold slots,

~~said injection head being supported by mechanical elements and motive elements to move the injection head relative to the mold so that heated thermoplastic material fills said screed mold slots,~~

~~accessing a pumping source,~~

utilizing ~~said a~~ pumping source to ~~pressurize~~ introduce thermoplastic material and ~~force it into said the~~ injection head, ~~through said and using the~~ distribution channels of ~~said the~~ injection head, ~~out of said exit ports of said injection head, into said screed mold, through said to deliver thermoplastic material into at least one of the slots in said the screed mold and out of said screed mold,~~

displacing the screed mold and the injection head relative to each other causing the thermoplastic material to be level, and

recovering molded and cooled thermoplastic material from ~~said the~~ screed mold in a desired geometric shape of a cushioning element.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein ~~said recovering step~~ includes periodically terminating pumping of thermoplastic material into ~~said the~~ screed mold, and during such period of termination, removing molded thermoplastic material from ~~said the~~ screed mold.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 1 wherein ~~said pumping~~ utilizing a pumping source to introduce thermoplastic material into the injection head is a continuous process, and molded thermoplastic material is recovered from ~~said one part of the~~ screed mold as unmolded thermoplastic material is ~~forced delivered~~ into ~~said at least one of the~~ slots in another part of the screed mold.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 1 wherein recovering molded and cooled thermoplastic material ~~is recovered from said the screed mold by comprises~~ cutting it as it exits ~~said one part of the screed mold due to as~~ new thermoplastic material ~~being forced is delivered~~ into ~~said another part of the~~ screed mold.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises cutting at least some of ~~said the slots are cut~~ not more than 80% of the way through ~~said the~~ rigid body.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises cutting at least some of ~~said the slots are cut~~ all the way through ~~said the~~ rigid body.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises forming ~~said screed mold the slots are formed~~ by bolting square or rectangular blocks to a base plate.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises cutting the slots in a ~~said rigid body is non-metallic~~ rigid body.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises cutting the rigid body so that at least some of ~~said the slots cross each other in an "X" configuration.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises cutting the rigid body so that at least some of ~~said the~~ slots cross each other in a “+” configuration.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein including a plurality of crisscrossing slots in a rigid body forming a honeycomb shape defining at least one mold core comprises sizing ~~said the~~ slots are sized to permit thermoplastic material to flow therethrough when heated.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing a separate injection head including at least one cooling channel in ~~said~~ injection head.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing a desired distance between ~~said distribution~~ the injection head and ~~said the~~ screed mold prior to flow of thermoplastic material.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ utilizing a pumping source to introduce thermoplastic material into the injection head includes ~~comprises~~ introducing an A-B-A triblock copolymer.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein ~~said~~ utilizing a pumping source to introduce thermoplastic material into the injection head comprises introducing a thermoplastic material includes ~~including~~ a plasticizer.

16. (Currently Amended) A screed mold method for making gelatinous elastomer gel cushioning articles, the method comprising the steps of:

~~obtaining a screed mold,~~

~~the screed mold having a rigid body,~~

~~the screed mold being an~~ providing an open

~~face non-pressurized mold,~~

~~the screed mold having a structural shape in~~ said a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, ~~said the~~ structural shape including crisscrossing slots in ~~said the~~ rigid body,

~~obtaining access to an injection head,~~

said positioning an injection head, having a plurality of distribution channels therein through which thermoplastic material may flow,

~~said distribution channels terminating in exit ports through which thermoplastic material may exit said injection head and enter~~ said in close proximity to the screed mold,

~~accessing a pumping source,~~

utilizing said a pumping source to pressurize-deposit thermoplastic material and ~~force it into~~ said the injection head, and distributing the thermoplastic material through said the distribution channels of said the injection head, out of said at least one exit ports port of said the injection head, into said screed mold, through said at least one of the slots in said the screed mold ~~and out of said screed mold,~~

causing the screed mold and the injection head to move relative to each other as the thermoplastic material is deposited into the slots, and receiving a cushioning element molded by said the screed mold.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~said-receiving step~~ a cushioning element includes periodically terminating pumping of thermoplastic material into said the screed mold, and during such period of termination, removing molded thermoplastic material from said the screed mold.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~said-utilizing a~~ pumping source to deposit thermoplastic material is a continuous process, and molded thermoplastic material is recovered from ~~said-one part of the~~ screed mold as unmolded thermoplastic material is forced-distributed into said-another part of the screed mold.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~molded thermoplastic material is recovered from said-screed mold by-receiving a cushioning element~~ molded by the screed mold comprises cutting it-a portion of the cushioning element as it exits said-one part of the screed mold due to new thermoplastic material being forced-distributed into said-another part of the screed mold.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~at least some of said-slots are cut~~ providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises cutting at least some of the slots not more than 80% of the way through said-the rigid body.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises cutting at least some of said-the slots are cut-all the way through said-the rigid body.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~said-screed mold slots are formed~~ providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises forming the slots by bolting square or rectangular blocks to a base plate.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein said rigid body is providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises forming a structural shape in a non-metallic rigid body.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises patterning the rigid body such that at least some of said-the slots cross each other in an "X" configuration.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises patterning the rigid body such that at least some of said-the slots cross each other in a "+" configuration.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein providing an open face screed mold having a structural shape in a rigid body in which gel may be formed to take on a desired geometric structure, the structural shape including slots in the rigid body, comprises sizing saidthe slots are sized to permit thermoplastic material to flow therethrough when heated.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising positioning an injection head including at least one cooling channel in said injection head.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising the step of establishing a desired distance between said distributionthe injection head and said-the screed mold prior to flow of thermoplastic material.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~said~~ utilizing a pumping source to deposit thermoplastic material into the injection head includes depositing a thermoplastic material including an A-B-A triblock copolymer.

30. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein ~~said~~ utilizing a pumping source to deposit thermoplastic material includes depositing a thermoplastic material including a plasticizer.